From the President

Happy New Year! As we enter another season of regional and national meetings, AFMR is pleased to once again be able to offer presentation opportunities and scholarships to so many young researchers throughout the country. This year, AFMR Scholar’s Programs continue to help support travel and networking opportunities for fellows and junior faculty at the Western Regional Meeting in Carmel, the Southern Regional Meeting in New Orleans, and the Midwest Combined Meeting in Chicago.

The annual AFMR National Meeting will be held this April at Experimental Biology 2007 in Washington, DC. We are taking advantage of this East Coast opportunity to bring back an Eastern Regional Meeting, something which has not occurred in several years and which our Eastern membership has missed. Like the other regional meetings, the emphasis for this Eastern meeting will be on providing opportunities for presentation and publication for trainees and for networking with other regional colleagues.

The EB 2007 meeting will also continue to showcase AFMR’s very successful Translational Research Symposia (four symposia over three days, http://www.afmr.org/eb.cgi) and, new this year, a joint AFMR-NIH sponsored Translational Research Development Workshop to be held on Saturday evening, April 28th. With these wonderful opportunities, plus the presentation of the AFMR Outstanding Investigator, Junior Physician Investigator and Henry Christian Awards, I hope you will be able join us in Washington for EB 2007.

Challenges of the New Research Environment

Over the past decade, AFMR has faced a number of challenges. Foremost, new membership has ebbed during this time for both apparent and not-so-apparent reasons: subspecialties have

Washington Highlights

AFMR’s Public Policy Efforts have included:

Monitoring Implementation of CTSA’s

- Crafted a letter sent to the Director of NIH, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, regarding the potentially detrimental effects CTSA’s have on GCRC’s on behalf of the American Federation of Medical Research (AFMR), the Association for Clinical Research Training, the Association for Patient-Oriented Research, and the General Clinical Research Centers Program Directors Association.
- Provided input on a letter, sent by Senator Kennedy, to Dr. Zerhouni that followed up on AFMR’s concerns regarding implementation of CTSA’s. Sen. Kennedy’s interest in this issue was encouraged by AFMR’s request for his office to further investigate the effect CTSA’s may have on clinical research and the training of young investigators.
- Set up meetings for the Chairman of the AFMR Public Policy Committee, Meredith Hawkins. Dr. Hawkins met with staff in Senator Clinton’s office, Senator Dodd’s office and the HELP committee on topics such as medical research and CTSA’s.
- Secured language in the FY07 HHS Appropriations Committee report: “Support of Clinical Investigators”

(continued on page 4)
Western Regional Meeting ~ January 31- February 3, 2007
Sunset Center ~ Carmel, California

Western Association of Physicians Symposium
Interplay of Oxidative Stress, Inflammation, Dyslipidemia and Hypertension in the Pathogenesis of Cardiovascular Disease - Topics: Convergence of Lipid and Oxidation Hypotheses of Atherosclerosis, The Vicious Cycle of Hypertension, Oxidative Stress, and Inflammation, and Homocysteine, B Vitamins and Cardiovascular Disease.

Plenary Symposium
Infection, Immunity, and Impact on Global Health
Speakers include: Lawrence Corey, University of Washington, Jeffrey Duchin, University of Washington, Thomas Hawn, University of Washington, Regina Rabinovich, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Jane Schaller, University of British Columbia.

State-of-the-Art Talks

Student Subspecialty Award Winner Poster Session
at the Monterey Beach Resort, 2600 Sand Dunes Drive, Monterey. All attendees for the Carmel Meetings are welcome and encouraged to attend.

AFMR Scholar Award Reception for Fellows and Jr. Faculty Awardees
Friday, February 2, 2007, 6:00 - 9:00

Breakfast with the Investigators Sessions
Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings

New Investigator Workshops
Thursday and Friday

Southern Regional Meeting ~ February 8-10, 2007
Hotel InterContinental, New Orleans, Louisiana

Manuscript Preparation and Peer-Reviewed Publication
Thursday, February 8, 2007, 1:00 - 5:00
This workshop will address multiple aspects of publication in scientific journals, including preparation of materials and the initial decision that the data are sufficient to justify publication. Issues will include length, focus, adherence to journal formats, and referencing. The editorial process from submission to publication will be described, as well as ethical issues in publication.

Evidence Based Medicine in 4 Hours or Less: An Introductory Workshop
Thursday, February 8, 2007, 1:00 - 5:00
This hands-on workshop will introduce participants to the fundamental steps of evidence based practice, including formulating well-built clinical questions, finding information efficiently, critically appraising the information, and applying the information to individual patient care applicable to a variety clinical care settings. Participants will get a good idea what aspects of EBM they wish to pursue in their own continuing education.

Toolkit to Survive in Academic Medicine
Thursday, February 8, 2007, 1:00 - 5:00
This workshop is designed for senior fellows and junior faculty who want to succeed in academic medicine. The workshop will outline clinician-scientist and clinician educator track in academic medicine and tips/tools to survive and succeed. Specific details of expectations for various tracks in research, service and teaching will be presented. Participants will have opportunity to discuss the challenges and barriers to succeed in academic medicine in panel discussion session. Participants will be paired with a mentor for tailored discussion of their curriculum vitae.

Changing Incentives to Improve the Quality of Care
Thursday, February 8, 2007, 1:00 - 5:00
This special symposium will focus on how physician pay-for-performance (P4P) incentive programs at the Veteran’s Administration and other health systems are impacting clinical and academic medicine. Participants will learn about model P4P programs including the structure of incentive programs and specific core quality measures aimed at improving care quality. A panel of experts from both VA and non-VA health systems will provide overviews of their systems followed by open dialogue with attendees about the benefits and downsides to such incentive programs.

Clinical Case Symposium
The Adult or Pediatric Clinical Case Symposium is devoted to the presentation and discussion of clinical case abstracts highlighting diagnostic and/or management issues. Clinical case descriptions, unique characteristics, treatment/interventions, and results/outcomes are all suitable for presentation at the Clinical Case Symposium. There will be two concurrent sessions: Adult and Pediatrics.

Joint Plenary Session
“Big Promise in Small Packages: Advances in Nanomedicine”

Western Regional Meeting ~ February 8-10, 2007
Hotel InterContinental, New Orleans, Louisiana

Plenary Session
“Big Promise in Small Packages: Advances in Nanomedicine”
Saturday, February 10, 2007, 9:00 - 11:30

Southern Regional Meeting ~ February 8-10, 2007
Hotel InterContinental, New Orleans, Louisiana

Joint Plenary Session
“Big Promise in Small Packages: Advances in Nanomedicine”
Saturday, February 10, 2007, 9:00 - 11:30
Central Society for Clinical Research & Midwestern Section AFMR Combined Annual Meeting ~ April 12-13, 2007
Hard Rock Hotel, Chicago, Illinois

Two plenary sessions, which cross subspecialty lines, will be moderated by Department Chairs from various Midwestern institutions. Each Department Chair has invited three outstanding research trainees and/or junior faculty from their institutions to present their research. Each presentation will be followed by a question and answer session designed to provide an interactive format for the presenters and attendees.

Added for 2007, an Oral Abstract Session will highlight the three best abstracts in each category. The submitters of the top three abstracts will have the opportunity to present their work orally in addition to receiving a travel grant.

The CSCR will once again present the Hickam Lecture and the MW AFMR will also host a Keynote Speaker. In addition to the plenary and oral abstract sessions, there will be a Welcome Reception and Poster Session on the evening of April 12 and a Luncheon Poster Session on the afternoon of April 13.

Fifty (50) grants in the amount of $1,000 each will be made available to K08, K23 and K30 Awardees on a first-come, first-served basis. Outstanding Young Investigator and Cardiovascular Awards, along with the Trainee Travel Awards and the MWAFMR/Centocor Scholar’s Program in Gastroenterology, Rheumatology, and Immunology, will once again be offered on Friday afternoon at the 2007 Combined Annual Meeting. The 2007 Combined Annual Meeting will take place immediately prior to the annual meeting of ASCI/AAP.

Thursday, April 12, 2007

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. CSCR Council Meeting
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. MWAFMR Council Meeting
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Poster Author Set-Up
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Welcome Reception and Poster Session
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. CSCR Sugar Club/Midwest Metabolism Dinner

Friday, April 13, 2007

7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Registration open
7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Poster Author Set-Up
8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Opening remarks by the CSCR President and the MWAFMR President
8:30 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. Department Chair Session 1
    Steven D. Shapiro, MD, Chair, Department of Medicine
    University of Pittsburgh Medical College
9:20 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Department Chair Session 2
    Kenneth S. Polonsky, MD, Chair, Department of Medicine
    Washington University School of Medicine
10:40 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. MWAFMR Keynote Speaker
    David A. Schwartz, MD MPH, Director
    National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and
    National Toxicology Program
1:15 p.m. – 2:05 p.m. Oral Abstract Session
2:05 p.m. – 2:55 p.m. CSCR Hickam Lecture
    Edward J. Benz Jr., MD, President
    Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Richard and Susan Smith Professor of Medicine
    Professor of Pediatrics, Professor of Pathology, Harvard Medical School
2:55 p.m. – 3:05 p.m. CSCR Business Meeting
3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. MWAFMR Scholar’s Program
    David A. Schwartz, MD MPH
The best way to encourage young clinicians to join AFMR. As a result, scholarship offerings, and providing more mentoring opportunities were AFMR Action Items have highlighted below.

responses, we have begun a number of new initiatives, a few of which I have briefly highlighted below.

AFMR Action Items

We realized that investment in young researchers through various scholarship offerings, and providing more mentoring opportunities were the best way to encourage young clinicians to join AFMR. As a result, AFMR has instituted a new program of Research Day Awards, which have been offered at a number of institutions around the US to provide monetary awards for outstanding research by medical students and trainees, and which will again be offered in 2007. Also, in 2006 we created a Summer Internship Program (http://www.afmr.org/2006-summer-clinical-research-training-awardees.cgi) that provides stipends to medical students working on summer research projects with AFMR members. This was tremendously popular and will also be continued in 2007.

AFMR Awards

The American Federation for Medical Research Foundation was established in 1989 to foster medical research and support programs aimed at developing the careers of physician scientists. The Foundation collaborates with other organizations to fund special research award programs, promote initiatives that enrich the education of research trainees, and honor outstanding achievements in the biomedical research community. The following awards will be given in 2007.

Henry Christian Awards - These awards began in 1990 to honor the founder of AFMR, Dr. Henry Christian. In 2007, the awards will be given to the presenters and first authors of outstanding abstracts submitted in each abstract category for the Experimental Biology 2007 meeting in Washington, DC (April 28 – May 2, 2007). Candidates must be physicians who are post-MD trainees, including residents, clinical fellows, physicians pursuing graduate degrees, and other post-doctoral fellows. The awards are supported by a grant from Merck. Awarded receive a Certificate of Excellence and a $1,000 honorarium.

Outstanding Investigator Awards - An An Outstanding Investigator Award is presented annually to an outstanding investigator age 45 or younger in recognition of excellence in biomedical research. To be considered, individuals must be nominated by two individuals using the OIA nomination form (available on the AFMR website at www.afmr.org). The Award recipient must be available to present his/her work at the AMFR National Awards Program at the Experimental Biology 2007 meeting in Washington, DC (April 28 – May 2, 2007). The winner receives an Outstanding Investigator Award and a prize of $5,000.

Junior Physician-Investigator Awards - These awards were created to honor young investigators whose research projects complement an overall program of research, teaching and clinical medicine. To be considered, a candidate must be a physician who has held a full-time medical school faculty appointment for five years or less. Candidates must have submitted abstracts to the Experimental Biology 2007 meeting and will be judged on both the quality of the abstract submitted and their career accomplishments. Applicants must submit a letter of support from their mentor, division chief, or department chair along with the attached application. A plaque and $2,500 will be presented to two winners in 2007. General Eligibility - To qualify for consideration of an award, applicants must be AFMR members in good standing. If you are not currently an AFMR member, you must submit a membership application along with the award application.
The Committee believes that NIH should give the highest priority to programs and policies that support the work of clinical investigators who translate laboratory findings to improved patient care. While the Committee supports the goals of the Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA), the initiative appears focused largely on the training of new clinical investigators and may result in a diminution of resources currently available to active clinical researchers. The Committee is concerned, for example, about whether the clinical services currently provided by General Clinical Research Centers will remain available to funded clinical investigators, particularly those in institutions that do not compete successfully for a CTSA. The Committee encourages the Director to monitor this closely and take steps to assure that the necessary clinical research infrastructure support is maintained for NIH-funded clinical investigators.

The Committee is particularly supportive of the component of the CTSA award that will make support available to researchers for pilot studies to collect preliminary data and offer researchers the opportunity to progress to research project grant support. The Committee requests a report by March 1, 2007 on the extent to which CTSA award funding or other NIH roadmap grants are being dedicated to this type of support for investigators.”

Advocating Improvement of Peer Review of Clinical Research

* Secured language in the FY07 HHS Appropriations Committee report regarding Peer Review through ongoing efforts and conversation with legislative staff.

“Peer Review of Patient-Focused Research”

The Committee remains extremely concerned about analyses by the Center for Scientific Review confirming that grant applications focused on patient-oriented research are less likely to receive funding than laboratory research grant proposals. The Committee encourages the Director to take steps to eliminate this disparity. The Committee is pleased that the NIH roadmap is focused on efforts to improve the training of clinical investigators. However, these efforts can only partially succeed if these researchers are at a disadvantage in the peer review process. In addition, the Committee is concerned that the peer review system may be failing to recognize the merit of applications that could lead to medical breakthroughs. The Committee encourages the Director to appoint a committee of clinical investigators with experience as NIH grant reviewers to recommend specific steps that should be taken to eliminate the disparity in the review of laboratory and clinical research applications. The Committee requests a report by March 1, 2007 on steps that are being taken to address problems highlighted in a 2002 General Accounting Office report including the lack of reliable methods for identifying and tracking patient-oriented research applications or reviewers.”

Monitoring Budget and Advocating Increases in NIH Funding

* Produced multiple grassroots alerts, requesting AFMR members to contact Congress regarding NIH Funding
* Continued to monitor NIH funding:

Congress failed to pass a FY07 HHS Appropriations bill at the end of this year and was forced to pass a continuing resolution (CR), which will extend funding for most federal agencies through February 15. Shortly after the last CR passed, the incoming chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, Rep. David Obey (D-WI) and Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) announced their intention to enact a year-long CR, minus all earmarks, when the 110th Congress convenes in early January.
Calling All Candidates for AFMR National Council

The AFMR Nominating Committee is looking for qualified candidates to serve the AFMR at the national level, as a member of the AFMR National Council. If interested, please visit the AFMR website at www.afmr.org and download the Candidate Profile Form.

NEW AFMR MEMBERS

Shema Ahmad, M.D.  
Jackson, Mississippi

John Anderson, M.D.  
Dallas, Texas

Corey Ball, M.D.  
Lubbock, Texas

Tandeep Bhatti, M.D.  
New York, New York

Michel A. Boivin, M.D.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Henda Bouali, M.D.  
Charleston, South Carolina

OraLee H. Branch, Ph.D.  
Birmingham, Alabama

Maria O. Cardenas, M.D.  
Portland, Oregon

Maurizio Chiriva-Internati, Ph.D.  
Lubbock, Texas

Everado Cobos, M.D.  
Lubbock, Texas

Ivana Cvetanovic, M.D.  
Lake Bluff, Illinois

Sarah Davis, M.D.  
Dallas, Texas

Christopher DeRenzo, M.D.  
Dallas, Texas

Vikas Dembla, M.D.  
Jackson, Mississippi

Jodie A. Dionne-Odom, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Shana Elman, M.D.  
Dallas, Texas

Carlos Flores, Ph.D.  
Chicago, Illinois

Krishna Gaddam, M.D.  
Birmingham, Alabama

Yonas E. Geda, M.D.  
Jacksonville, Florida

Debbie S. Gipson, M.D.  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Alicia F. Hidron, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

John S. Hrom, M.D.  
Brandon, Mississippi

Howard H. T. Hsu, Ph.D.  
Kansas City, Kansas

Sakeer Hussain, M.D.  
Shreveport, Louisiana

James Jackson, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Jesse T. Jacob, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Seema Jain, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Allison Jordan, M.D.  
Dallas, Texas

Ravi Kalhan, M.D.  
Chicago, Illinois

Sushma Komakula, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Thu H. Le, M.D.  
Durham, North Carolina

Justin Leitenberger, M.D.  
Dallas, Texas

Kathleen D. Liu, M.D.  
San Francisco, California

Daniel L. Marks, M.D.  
Portland, Oregon

Christopher Maroules, M.D.  
Dallas, Texas

Chandler R. Marrs, M.S.  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Monica Mead, M.D.  
Dallas, Texas

Aneesh K. Mehta, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Cynthia D. Morris, M.D.  
Portland, Oregon

Carla M. Nester, M.D.  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Flory L. Nkoy, M.D.  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Marie C. Nlend, Ph.D.  
Chicago, Illinois

Olga Ostmann, M.D.  
Fargo, North Dakota

Y. Patsiornik, M.D.  
Brooklyn, New York

Timir K. Paul, M.D.  
Johnson City, Tennessee

Mohammad Razaq, M.D.  
Brooklyn, New York

Emily K. Rehberg, M.D.  
Jackson, Mississippi

John K. Roberts, M.S.  
Hattisburg, Alabama

Nadine G. Rouphael, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Leticia M. Ryan, M.D.  
Washington, DC

Saqib S. Sheikh, M.D.  
Elmhurst, New York

Arif Showkat, M.D.  
Memphis, Tennessee

Muhammad S. Siddique, M.D.  
East Lansing, Michigan

Shanthi V. Sitaraman, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Jennifer E. Slickers, M.D.  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

James A. Solomon, M.D.  
Ormond Beach, Florida

Bonifasiyo K. Ssenyamantono, M.D.  
New York, New York

Nimalie D. Stone, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Naasha J. Talah, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Gabriel Wishik, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Kevin Wu, M.D.  
Toledo, Ohio

Alexandra Yamshchikov, M.D.  
Atlanta, Georgia

Yutong Zhao, M.D.  
Chicago, Illinois
The mission of AFMR is to promote understanding of recent advances in biomedical science for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease; to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information among physicians and other investigators who are concerned with the treatment of disease; and to improve health by fostering research in all medical disciplines through public policy initiatives and educational programs.

AFMR Members receive:

- A complimentary subscription to the *Journal of Investigative Medicine*
- Access to award programs designed specifically to support both practicing and developing Clinical Researchers:
  - The Henry Christian Awards
  - The AFMR Outstanding Investigator Award
  - The AFMR Junior Physician-Investigator Award
  - Regional Scholars’ Programs
- Abstract submission opportunities for national and regional meetings
- Regular electronic newsletters
- Advocacy programs for Physician Scientists and legislative updates via email

**AFMR:**
**Promoting Medical Research & Researchers**

www.AFMR.org
Published bi-monthly, *Journal of Investigative Medicine* is the official journal of the American Federation for Medical Research (AFMR), an international multidisciplinary association of scientists engaged in all areas of biomedical investigation: patient-oriented, translational, and basic research. The goal of the *Journal of Investigative Medicine* is to be a major platform for the physician-scientist, those with a clinical/translational focus and those with a basic science focus. The *Journal* publishes original articles and reviews of broad interest to academic physicians and scientists. Authors wishing to contribute reviews are encouraged to contact the Editor prior to submission.

Manuscripts containing new material are accepted for consideration for publication with the provision that they are submitted solely to the *Journal of Investigative Medicine* and that no part of the material has been submitted to any other publication. For complete Author Information on *Journal* submission, please visit the AFMR website, www.afmr.org or visit the publisher’s website at www.bcdecker.com

---

**Inside this Issue.....**

- **Highlights of the upcoming 2007 Regional Meetings**
  - Western - Carmel, California
    - January 31- February 3, 2007
  - Southern - New Orleans
    - February 8-10, 2007
  - Midwestern Combined Meeting - Chicago- April 12-13, 2007

- **Experimental Biology 2007 -**
  - Washington, DC
    - April 28-May 2, 2007
    - Including Eastern Regional!

- **AFMR’s Advocacy Efforts in Washington in 2006**

- **2007 AFMR Awards**

- **A look at AFMR’s accomplishments in 2006 and where the organization is going, by AFMR President Jonathan Purnell**